

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 08067 211234Z

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 EB-03 DODE-00 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 /062 W

----- 050299

R 211200Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5909

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8067

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD

SUMMARY: DAOUD NOVEMBER 21 STRESSED AFGHANISTAN'S PRIORITIES AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT HOME AND NONALIGNMENT ABROAD. RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN WERE TOUCHED ON ONLY OBLIQUELY IN WHAT WAS BILLED AS MORE A CEREMONIAL THAN A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION.

1. FOLLOWING BRIEF, INFORMAL CEREMONY FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, PRESIDENT DAOUD RECEIVED ME FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES. DEPUTY FONMIN ABDULLAH ALSO PRESENT.

2. AFTER WELCOMING REMARKS, DAOUD MADE PARTICULAR POINT OF STRESSING THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT I MIGHT HEAR FROM OTHERS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 08067 211234Z

HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ANY OUTSIDE

POWER, IS BASED SOLELY ON AFGHAN PATRIOTISM, IS DEDICATED TO THE RAISING OF AFGHAN LIVING STANDARDS AND IS FIRMLY NON-ALIGNED. HE ALSO SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN IS GRATEFUL FOR PAST AMERICAN ASSISTANCE AND WISHES TO CONTINUE THE KIND OF CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE US THAT HAVE EXISTED IN THE PAST.

3. IN HANDING DAOUD THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, WHICH HE DID NOT READ IN MY PRESENCE, I STRESSED THE ADMIRATION OF THE PRESIDENT FOR DAOUD PERSONALLY, AND OF THE UNITED STATES FOR AFGHANISTAN'S

SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE, DEDICATION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY OF PEACEFUL COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. I THEN, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF USEFUL MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT, GAVE HIM SHORT BRIEFING ON THE MIDDLE EAST, REFERRING TO HIS INTEREST EXPRESSED IN HIS LETTER OF OCTOBER 18 TO THE PRESIDENT. HE RESPONDED BY EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE BRIEFING AND BY SAYING THAT AFGHANISTAN BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION. THIS WAS THE CLOSEST HE CAME TO MENTIONING AFGHAN/PAK RELATIONS EXCEPT FOR AN EXPRESSION OF PLEASURE THAT AMBASSADOR BYROADE WILL BE IN ISLAMABAD.

4. COMMENT: DAOUD WAS RELAXED AND GRANDFATHERLY, AND THE CONVERSATION WAS PUNCTUATED BY THREE OR FOUR JABS AT HUMOR. HE MADE IT CLEAR THIS WAS NOT AN OCCASION FOR SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE TALK WHICH WOULD COME LATER.
ELIOT

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